

Pewsey Rural District Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1943

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my 24th Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration of your district.

This report is brief and is according to instructions received from the Ministry of Health in their circular 10/44 dated February 15th, 1944.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

A. H. WILSON,

18 Victoria Road, Salisbury.

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population—Census 1931 : 14,292.

Population—Estimated Mid. 1943—13,670

Area, 75,828 Acres

Rateable Value : £93,286

Sum represented by Penny Rate : £391 0 0

Number of Inhabited Houses as shown by Rate Books end of 1943 :
3,585

Births, 1943.	Male.	Female.	Total.	
Live	125	162	287	(31 Illegitimate)
Still	5	1	6	(0 Illegitimate)

Birth Rate, 1943.		England and Wales	
Live	20.9	Live	16.5
Still	0.43	Still	0.54

Birth Rate		Average last 10 years	18.9
England and Wales		" "	10 " 15.04
Deaths : Males, 94.	Females 80.	Total, 174.	

Death Rate	(1943) 12.7	Average last 10 years	11.6
England and Wales	" 12.1	" " 10 "	12.2

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age : Males 4
Females 3. Total, 7.

Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births)	24.3
England and Wales	49.0
Infantile Mortality Average last 10 years	41.4
England and Wales " " 10 "	55.8

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease.	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total deaths
Scarlet Fever	29	23	0
Diphtheria	1	1	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Pneumonia	5 (2 Mil).	2 (Mil).	0
Erysipelas	4	0	0
Measles	234	0	0
Whooping Cough	70	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	4	4	1
Dysentery (Sonne).	2	0	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	1	1

Scarlet Fever. 29 cases were notified against 23 last year; they occurred evenly throughout the year and the district. Except in one case where three children in one family developed the disease in no case did two people in one house get the disease. All were civilian cases.

Diphtheria. The one case notified was in a girl age 13 who had been immunised in 1941. This girl was sent to Hospital because she showed diphtheria bacilli in a swab taken from the throat, but it was a very mild case and the Doctor told me that the clinical symptoms were hardly like diphtheria at all.

Pneumonia. Five cases were notified to me, the same as last year, None of these died and of the deaths attributed to this disease by the Registrar General viz. 4 males and 2 females, three were not notified to me (two children under 12 months and one man age 67) and the remainder were of types not notifiable.

I have no records of what happened to the non-civilian cases, two of which were notified.

Erysipelas. Four cases were notified and no deaths recorded.

Measles and Whooping Cough. 234 cases of the former and 70 of the latter were notified; the former arose fairly evenly during the whole year with a slight falling off between June and September while the latter arose mainly during these months. No deaths were recorded in either disease, and none were treated in Hospital.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever. Four cases were notified and three went to Hospital and recovered the one death was in a boy age 3 who did not go to Hospital. Several other suspected cases were sent to Hospital for diagnosis but eventually proved not to be the disease. I had no case among non-civilians notified to me during the year.

Encephalitis Lethargica. The case was first of all thought to be scarlet fever, but at the Hospital the diagnosis was changed to this disease and the patient, a boy age 4, died.

Dysentery (Sonne). The two cases notified were both in one family a boy and a girl aged 9 and 6 respectively and both were treated at home.

Tuberculosis. 17 cases of all sorts were notified to me, of these two were transfers from other places and one was a discharge from the army. One proved not to be tubercular, two died before the end of the year and one in January 1944.

The Notifications were :—

Male Pulm.	1 between 25—35	1 between 35—45
	1 over 65	
Female Pulm.	1 between 15—20	2 „ 20—25
	4 „ 25—35	1 „ 55—56
Male Non. P.	1 „ 5—10	2 „ 15—20
Female N. Pulm.	2 „ 1—5	1 „ 10—15

The deaths were :—

Male Pulm.	1 between 45—55	
Female Pulm.	1 „ 15—20	2 „ 25—35
	1 „ 55—65	
Male Non. P.	1 „ 5—10	1 „ 45—55

Both Non-pulmonary and one female pulmonary had not been previously notified to me but as all three were inward transferable deaths they had probably been notified elsewhere.

Immunisation Against Diphtheria. During the year 189 children under five years and 34 between five and fifteen were immunised. This brings the total done since to commencement of the campaign to 787 under five and 1845 between five and fifteen to the end of 1943. and the percentage estimated to have been done is 62.5% under 5 and 78% of those between five and fifteen, and the work continues. The estimated children done at the end of 1942 was 39.3% under 5 and 75.5% between five and fifteen.

Water Supply.

With the exception of a number of cottages which have been connected to farm supplies, little change has taken place concerning domestic supplies.

The Ludgershall and Pewsey public supplies are regularly examined bacteriologically and show consistently good results.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Owing to shortage of Labour and materials, the work of connecting premises to the main sewers has not been completed in Pewsey.

No difficulties have been encountered in the operation of the disposal works.

Sewer ditches in the various parishes were cleansed regularly by the Council's staff.

Closet Accommodation.

A number of conversions from pail closets to W.C.'s have been made in various parts of the District. In nearly all cases these have been effected when small disposal units have been installed.

Public Cleansing.

The Council maintained a regular collection of house refuse and salvage, although at times transport difficulties were experienced. To overcome this trouble an additional lorry was purchased.

Milk Supplies.

There has been considerable work done on the matter of milk production and use has been made of Laboratory facilities for assisting producers to raise the standard of production. Advisory samples and rinses of dairy equipment have been undertaken at the laboratory at the Council Offices. This laboratory is now licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries and is efficiently worked by Mr. Timothy the Sanitary Inspector.

No. of samples taken during year, 580.

No. tested at laboratory, 390.

Legal Action.

No legal action was taken during the year.

Housing.

Housing activities were on a reduced scale because of the difficulty of getting repairs carried out. Towards the end of the year, the position improved and owners were able to get a small amount of work done.

Two Demolition orders were made during the Year.

Overcrowding.

The number of cases of overcrowding increased during the year, but no action could be taken because of the shortage of housing accommodation. This increase was due chiefly to evacuees, the billeting of service personnel, and an influx of workers engaged on war-work.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

	No. of Inspections. 1	No. of Defects. 2	Informal Notices. 3	Statutory Notices. 4	Remedied by 3. 5	Remedied by 4. 6	Remedied after verbal instructions on'y. 7
Nuisances ...	98	60	28	—	28	—	32
Slaughter- houses ...							
Butcher's Shops ...	368	10	—	—	—	—	10
Knackers' Yards ...	30	3	2	—	2	—	1
Places where food is pre- pared ...	61	15	7	—	7	—	8
Cowsheds ...							
Dairies and Milkstores }	493	105	38	—	34	—	67
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	15	2	2	—	2	—	—
Bakehouses	45	5	5	—	—	—	—
Totals	1110	200	82	—	73	—	118

Not Classified above :—

Housing	76
Infectious Diseases	24
Factories	15
Unclassified visits and inspection—water samples, drain testing, refuse collection, bylaws, etc.	478
Total	593
Total Number of all Visits and Inspections	1703

Milk and Dairies, etc.

Number of Wholesale Retailers on Register (1943)	169
Number of Retail Purveyors on Register (1943)	71
Number of Certificates issued (Producers) (1943)	2

Meat and Foods.

All meat for the District is killed at the Government Slaughter House, Pewsey, and is inspected before distribution to the Retailers.

Weight of meat condemned during the year	28,561 lbs.
Other foods (Tinned)	311 tins
Other foods	72 lbs.

TOTAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

Causes of Death.	M.	F.
All Causes	94	80
Typhoid and Paratyphoid		
Cerebrospinal Fever ..	1	
Scarlet Fever ..		
Whooping Cough ..		
Diphtheria ..		
Tuberc. of Respir. syst. ..	1	4
Other form of Tuberc. ..	2	
Syphilitic Diseases ..		
Influenza	1	
Measles		
Ac. Polio-myelitis and Enceph.		
Ac. Inf. Enceph.	1	
Cancer of b. cav; and		
oesoph (M.)		
uterus (F)	3	1
Cancer of stomach and		
duodenum	7	1
Cancer of breast ..		2
Cancer of all other sites ..	11	9
Diabetes	1	1
Intra. cran. vasc. lesions	11	8
Heart disease	20	24
Other dis. of circ. syst. ..	5	2
Bronchitis	5	5
Pneumonia	4	2
Other Resp. diseases ..		2
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum		
Diarrhœa under two years		

Causes of Death.	M.	F.
Appendicitis		
Other digest. diseases ..	2	3
Nephritis	1	1
Puerp. and postabort. sepsis		
Other maternal causes ..		1
Premature birth	1	3
Cong. malf. birth inj. Inf. dis.	2	
Suicide	2	
Road Traffic Act		
Other violent causes ..	1	2
All other causes ..	12	9
Deaths of Infants under 1 year—		
Total	4	3
Legitimate	3	3
Illegitimate	1	
Live Births		
Total	125	162
Legitimate	108	148
Illegitimate	17	14
Stillbirths		
Total	5	1
Legitimate	5	1
Illegitimate		
Population	13,670	